

HB 1046 -- DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY

SPONSOR: Rowland

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill requires each established political party to provide the Missouri Secretary of State with verifiable proof of the identity and proof of status as a natural born citizen of the United States for each nominee for President and Vice President of the United States. The proof must be submitted with the other certification documents that are required to be filed with the Secretary of State pursuant to Chapter 115, RSMo. A write-in candidate for either of these positions must also provide this certification.

"Natural born citizen" means having been declared a national and citizen of the United States at birth or having been declared a national and United States citizen under federal law as it existed at the time of the nominee's birth. Evidence used to verify a nominee's status as a natural born citizen must be in the form of the most complete record of birth available from the controlling legal authority at the time of the nominee's birth, must be kept and maintained by the Secretary of State, and must be deemed a public record under Chapter 610.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will impose uniform requirements for persons running for federal office by requiring candidates for President and Vice President of the United States to provide proof that they are natural born citizens. Proof is currently required for all members of Congress. The provisions will not take effect until 2016. The founders of our nation wished to ensure against conflicts of interest for the highest office in the land so we should verify allegiance to the United States by enforcing the constitutional requirements to hold the office of President and Vice President.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowland; Hector Moldonado; Bill Petrovich; John Putnam; Philip Todd; Mitch Hubbard; Jim Holland; Barbara Dahl; Barbara Smith; Michael Green; and Beverly Petrovich.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.